



Americanism Plan of Action 2014-2015



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Committee Members: Marlene Short

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The Americanism Program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship. Our goal this year is to have 100% participation by all units who choose to work this program. The four objectives with helpful ideas of how to complete are listed below as well as deadlines and awards.

1. To be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal methods and promote observation of patriotic holidays.

- Host flag awareness events and provide information or attend schools to share the information as well as providing handouts at community events
- Provide a list of patriotic holidays to local schools and businesses
- Encourage members and local businesses to fly a flag and recognize those that do with a citation or certificate of appreciation

2. Encourage voting and support the flag amendment to protect the United States flag from desecration.

Amendment currently reads "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States"

- Contact state & federal representatives, asking them to support the flag amendment
- Promote the Get out to Vote & Kids Voting USA campaigns
- Drive senior citizens to voting locations

3. Encourage participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "*What does Freedom Mean to my Family?*" ***Essays due to chairman by April 1, 2015 anything received after this date will not be accepted.***

- Ensure you have contacts with your local schools and other organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, ROTC groups or other youth organizations about the essay contest
- Encourage your Junior members, grandchildren, nieces or nephews to participate
- Create & provide packets to your contacts within the schools or organizations with all the materials explaining the contest rules, deadlines, theme and award opportunities
- Invite your winners & their parents to your unit meetings and have them read their essay and present them with an award or certificate. Provide refreshments after.

4. Promote pride in belonging to the world's largest patriotic women's organization and support the American Legion's Americanism programs

- Encourage members to wear their "Honoring Their Service" buttons
- Encourage members to wear their American Legion Auxiliary logo clothing and jewelry at functions
- Carry membership applications for the Legion Family
- Support American Legion Baseball. Help with concessions or fundraisers
- Support the Oratorical Contest at your post or district level. Offer to help with refreshments; help prepare post home for the contests.

Awards

a. Best overall Americanism Program. A narrative report not to exceed 1000 words. Feel free to include pictures, news clippings etc. Certificate & Gift

b. Most outstanding Junior Americanism Program. A narrative report not to exceed 1000 words. Feel free to include pictures, news clippings etc. Certificate & Gift (Winner Submitted to National)

c. Most outstanding Americanism program targeting children & youth. Narrative report not to exceed 1000 words with picture, news clippings etc. Certificate & Gift (Winner will be submitted to National)

d. All Units who have Americanism Essays submitted on time will receive Certificates as well as each participant. Winners in each age group will be submitted to National.

Mid-Year Reports due by December 15, 2014 and End of Year Reports by May 1, 2015